



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018

The Resource Management Commission convened a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road, in Austin, Texas.

Chair Dielmann called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance: Leo Dielmann, Chair (District 7); Cyrus Reed, Vice Chair (District 9); James Babyak (District 6), Rebecca Breneman (District 10), Derrick Lesnau (District 1), Tom “Smitty” Smith (District 5), and Kaiba White (District 2). Scott Kohan (District 3) was absent. There are three vacancies: Mayor, District 4, and District 8.

Staff in Attendance: Debbie Kimberly, Denise Kuehn, Kurt Stogdill, David Hood, and Toye Goodson of Austin Energy; Zach Baumer and Cavan Merski of the Office of Sustainability; José Roig, Beth Culver, and Richard C. Anderson of the Development Services Department; and Larry Graham and Hayley Cunningham of Texas Gas Service.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- Bob Hendricks of the Sierra Club Austin Climate Change Committee urged the Commission to ensure that Resource Plan studies were done timely, well, and openly, and that Austin Energy use forecasts of costs that take into account lower prices of renewables.
- Al Braden of 350.org and the Sierra Club said that renewable energy is more affordable than building gas plants and urged the Commission to make zero carbon by 2030 their goal.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes for the regular meeting of April 17, 2018, were approved on Chair Dielmann’s motion, Vice Chair Reed’s second, on a 6-0 vote, with Commissioner Smith off the dais.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Recommend issuance of a rebate to Oracle, for performing energy efficiency improvements at its new facility located at 2401 South Lakeshore Blvd., in an amount not to exceed \$240,503. (District 3) **The motion to recommend issuance of a rebate to Oracle was approved on Vice Chair Reed’s motion, Commissioner Lesnau’s second, on a 7-0 vote.**

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Quarterly conservation program update from Texas Gas Service by Larry Graham and Hayley Cunningham of Texas Gas Service.
- b. Emissions data related to natural gas and electric energy usage in residential properties by Zach Baumer and Cavan Merski of the Office of Sustainability.
- c. Process for amending City of Austin technical codes including residential gas connection requirements by Kurt Stogdill of Austin Energy and José Roig of the Development Services Department.
- d. Energy code plan review and inspections including the solar-ready provision by José Roig, Beth Culver, and Richard Anderson of the Development Services Department.

5. OTHER BUSINESS – Discussion regarding the Annual Internal Review Report.

Commissioners reviewed Section 3, goals and objectives for the upcoming year, and made revisions to the following items included in last year’s report:

- c. Continue to work with the staff of Austin Energy, Austin Water, the Development Services Department, Fleet Services, the Office of Sustainability, and Texas Gas Service, specifically to assist staff in achieving the City’s goals in regards to greater adoption of resource conservation, the use of alternate technologies and renewable sources, and reduction of CO2 emissions.
- e. Support additional studies to evaluate energy efficiency and distributed generation, and to assist the staff in developing new programs and policies that have achievable, affordable, and aggressive goals.
- g. Support Austin Energy staff in the development of new energy conservation programs and policies, and renewable energy projects and policies, including community solar projects and additional programs to expand access to solar for low income residents and those in multifamily housing.
- i. Utilize ~~Adopt~~ the concepts of triple bottom-line sustainability in the RMC’s decisions, recommendations, and advice to council, i.e., consider the balance between the environmental, economic, and societal equity impacts of our decisions, recommendations, and advice.
- j. Advocate for and monitor compliance with adopted policies such as the Energy Code and water restrictions, and review proposed changes.

Commissioners added three new objectives to the draft report:

- l. Support the goals of the Austin Community Climate Plan by exploring options and making recommendations on strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible.
- m. Work with Austin Energy, the Office of Sustainability, Cap Metro, and Fleet Services to develop policies, programs, and rate structures that facilitate and encourage electrification of transportation, provide ancillary services, and reduce peak power consumption.
- n. Review and monitor progress of the Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2027, including studies called for in the plan, and participate in any updates to the plan.

A revised draft report will be reviewed at next month’s meeting.

During discussion of objective k. “Leverage synergies of existing and emerging methods and technologies to enhance resource management such as the water-energy nexus,” Commissioner Smith suggested a presentation on water pumping management as an energy conservation tool. He said the movement of water can be a large part of a city’s energy demand, and that some cities were employing time-of-use strategies to take advantage of low market prices and available wind power, and installing turbines to use the flow of water to generate electricity.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

In addition to Commissioner Smith’s request regarding energy saving tools employed by Austin Water (see previous paragraph), he requested a presentation on electric transportation including projections on the transformation, the integration of ancillary services, and storage plans. Commissioner White requested that the Office of Sustainability provide a cost comparison of electric vs. gas home appliances to accompany their emissions analysis, and that the Development Services Department provide their proposed FY19 budget for additional energy code inspectors.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Dielmann adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m. without objection.